

EXPERIENCE AND EXPERTISE:

The Gila County Office of Health has been in existence since 1893. Our official title is The Division of Health and Emergency Services, Office of Health. The Office of Health includes Health Services and Prevention Services. Health Services include communicable disease investigations, blood pressure checks, head lice inspections, pregnancy testing, tuberculosis control, vaccinations, well child clinic, CRS clinics, sexually transmitted infections (testing, investigations and treatment), Family Planning, Child Care Health Consultants, HIV services, environmental health, rabies control and the HRPP/NICP Program- Community Nursing Services. Prevention Services include Healthy Steps, Injury Prevention, Nutrition Services, WIC, Teen Outreach Program, Tobacco Free Environment, Gila County Worksite Wellness and Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visitation Program.

Previous to 1999, Pinal County served Pinal and Gila County families with HRPP/NICP services. In 1999, The Gila County Office of Health felt that due to our county populations' growth and staffing changes, our Office was better suited to serve its' own residents and our staff was committed to improving the services we offered. We already saw many of these clients for immunization and WIC services. Since 1999, we have been providing home visits through the HRPP/NICP Community Nursing Grant to residents of southern Gila County and added the northern part of Gila County in 2009. According to the Statistical Profile – 2011 provided by ADHS, residents in Gila County have a higher percentage of premature mortality (County 52.2%, Arizona 51.1%) a higher percentage of low-birth weight per 1,000 births (County 78.2. State 70.7) and a greater number of teen births/1000 females 14-19 years. (County 72.4, State 51.6)

In the past 15 years this program has grown to provide the much needed services in our County. We originally contracted a Community Health Nurse from another county to provide home visits to our residents. In 2005 we sought to find a qualified nurse in Gila County itself in order to provide timely and culturally appropriate services to this rural County. During these 15 years, the Community Health Nurses have been overseen by the Health Services Program Manager at the Gila County Health Department. We currently are serving 12 clients, but have had as many as 25 clients at once.

In 2007, the Nursing Section established a vision and statement of values supporting the Gila County Division of Health & Community Services' Mission. The Nursing Sections' vision is "Offering flexible client centered services and resources within program guidelines". Our values are "Accurately provide health education, interventions and support with respect and integrity". The "Community Health Nursing Specific Goals" supports the Nursing Sections' vision and values by providing the following home based services:

- Providing families of high risk children with developmental evaluations to determine eligibility for early intervention services and/or developmentally appropriate activities for their child.
- Providing family-centered, culturally sensitive, and developmentally appropriate, coordinated services

- Providing services in a setting that best meets the needs of the family and child.

The mission of the Gila County “Community Nursing Services” is to reduce maternal and infant mortality and morbidity through community health nursing utilizing the following strategies:

- Early identification of women and children at high risk for mortality and morbidity;
- Education for health professionals, families and communities;
- Linkage of infants, toddlers and pregnant women to risk appropriate services;
- Establishment of standards of care.

Our current CHN is Christine McCown, NICU RN, BSN. Christine is a resident of Gila County and passionate about her work serving her communities. Christine actually sought out the County for this position, asking us to consider her as a CHN for the Gila County Office of Health. Christine has a contract with Gila County to provide home visits at a fixed price per visit. (See resume attached). The positions of Health Services Program Manager and Social Worker are vacant at this time. (See job descriptions for Program Manager attached) Social Worker would be a contractual position and contract would provide job duties.

The Project Manager for this program has always been the Health Services Program Manager. This position is currently vacant, but the new Health Services Program Manager will be responsible in overseeing this program. In the meantime, Paula Horn, Deputy Director of Health Services will serve as Program Manager. Her e-mail is phorn@gilacountyaz.gov and her direct telephone number is (928) 402-8813. The Program Manager will advise the ADHS Program Unit Manager of his/her contact information and serve as a primary day-to-day contact, receiving referrals and telephone calls from other contracted CHN agencies. They will attend, lead and prepare materials for meeting requested and ensure all staff is up-to-date on changes to Program Policies and current local resources. All necessary operational components are already completed; however, the Program Manager will be responsible in ensuring ordering any additional items. Troubleshooting and correction of problems is dealt with monthly or as needed. The Program Manager and CHN meet monthly to discuss problems or concerns with the program. Patient Satisfaction Surveys are given to all clients on their 5th visit by the CHN. These are reviewed by the Program Manager. Quality Management is reviewed quarterly through CHN reports and submitted to the state. Resolutions are discussed between the CHN and Program Manager. If unable to resolve the issue, the ADHS Program Unit Manager is contacted for advice. Should the Project Manager be unavailable Paula Horn will be the designated alternate contact. The Health Services Program Manager ensures that the County, as well as our subcontractors, fulfills their duties and responsibilities under the Contract. The Health Services Manager will be responsible for providing all required documents to ADHS in a timely manner.